

Status of the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (original) A method for processing credit transactions, comprising:

establishing a threshold ratio of disputed credit transactions to total credit transactions for a period of time;

calculating a number of disputed credit transactions and a number of credit transactions involving a merchant in the period of time;

calculating a ratio of the number of disputed credit transactions to the number of credit transactions for the merchant; and

assessing a chargeback fee against the merchant only for each disputed transaction involving the merchant that exceeds the threshold ratio, when the merchant's ratio is at least equal to the threshold ratio.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, the period of time comprising thirty days.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, the threshold ratio comprising three percent.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

establishing the threshold ratio based on an industry category including the merchant.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, the industry category comprising a standard industrial classification code.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
establishing the threshold ratio based on an average transaction volume of the merchant.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
establishing a threshold number of time periods in which the ratio of disputed credit transactions to may exceed the threshold ratio;
calculating a number of time periods in which the ratio of the number of disputed credit transactions to the number of credit transactions for the merchant is at least equal to the threshold value; and said assessing further comprising:
assessing the chargeback fee against the merchant only for each disputed transaction that exceeds the threshold ratio, when the ratio is at least equal to the threshold ratio for the period of time and the number of time periods for the merchant is at least equal to the threshold number of time periods.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the threshold number of time periods is greater than one.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

generating a notice for transmission to the merchant when the number of time periods for the merchant is greater than zero and less than the threshold number of time periods, the notice including: the ratio of the number of disputed credit transactions to the number of credit transactions for the merchant, the threshold ratio, the number of time periods for the merchant and the threshold number of time periods.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

transmitting the notice to the merchant.

11. (original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

generating a notice for transmission to the merchant when the number of time periods for the merchant is greater than zero and less than the threshold number of time periods, the notice including at least proposed business solution for reducing the number of disputed credit transactions involving the merchant.

12. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the threshold number of time periods is based on an industry category including the merchant.

13. (original) The method of claim 7, the threshold number of time periods comprising a threshold number of consecutive time periods.

14. (original) A method for processing credit transactions, comprising:
- calculating a ratio of disputed credit transactions to total credit transactions for each of a plurality of industry categories for a previous period of time;
 - determining a first threshold ratio for a first of the industry categories based on said calculating;
 - determining a second threshold ratio, lower than the first threshold ratio, for a second of the industry categories based on said calculating, the second of the industry categories having a lower ratio of disputed credit transaction to total credit transactions in the previous period of time than the first of the industry categories.
15. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
- calculating a dispute-to-record of charge (ROC) ratio for a merchant in the first of the industry categories; and
 - assessing a chargeback fee when the dispute-to-ROC ratio is at least equal to the first threshold ratio.
16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the chargeback fee is assessed for each disputed credit transaction that exceeds the first threshold ratio.
17. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
- determining a first threshold number of time periods in which the ratio of disputed credit transactions for a merchant in the first of the industry categories exceeds the first threshold ratio, based on said calculating; and

determining a second threshold number of time periods, lower than the first threshold number of time periods, in which the ratio of disputed credit transactions for a merchant in the second of the industry categories may exceed the second threshold ratio, based on said calculating.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

calculating a dispute-to-record of charge (ROC) ratio for the merchant for a plurality of previous time periods;

calculating a number of time periods in which the dispute-to-ROC ratio of the merchant is greater than the first threshold ratio; and

assessing a chargeback fee if the merchant's current dispute-to-ROC ratio is at least equal to the first threshold ratio and the number of time periods for the merchant is at least equal to the first threshold number of time periods.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

generating a notice for transmission to the merchant when the merchant's current dispute-to-ROC ratio is at least equal to the first threshold ratio and the number of time periods for the merchant is less than the first threshold number of time periods, including a predetermined period of time in which the merchant must lower their dispute-to-ROC ratio to avoid chargeback fees.

20. (original) An apparatus for processing credit transactions, comprising:

a processor;

a memory operative with the processor to store and retrieve a sequence of processing instructions that enable the processor to:

calculate an average dispute-to-record of charge (ROC) ratio for each of a plurality of industry categories;

establish a threshold dispute-to-ROC ratio for a first of the industry categories based on its average dispute-to-ROC ratio;

calculate a dispute-to-ROC ratio for a merchant in the first of the industry categories; and

assess a chargeback fee to the merchant when the merchant's dispute-to-ROC ratio is greater than the threshold dispute-to-ROC ratio, the chargeback fee applied to each disputed transaction involving the merchant that causes the merchant to exceed the threshold dispute-to-ROC ratio.